

REMARKS

Claims have been amended to clarify what Applicant regards as the invention. Support for the amendments in the amended claims can be found, for example, in Fig. 3 and on page 13, lines 12 to 22. Objections to the claims have been addressed and clarified by the amendments.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, and 13 have been rejected as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art ("AAPR"). Applicant respectfully but strongly disagrees with the allegation that the AAPR anticipates the claimed invention for the following reasons.

Amendments to claim 1 and 11 have been made to clarify the position of the burr. The burr is claimed to project out from the communicating hole into the through-hole. The AAPR, particularly Fig. 7, shows a burr inside and within the communicating hole 32 and not projecting out into the through-hole 33. That is, the inner wall of the communicating hole in Fig. 7 does not project out into the through-hole. Furthermore, claims 10 and 13 recites a feature that "an inner wall surface of said through-hole nearby a part where said communicating hole communicates with said through-hole is in a shape of a flat surface." This feature is also not disclosed by the AAPR. Thus, the AAPR does not anticipate the present invention as claimed in claims 1, 10, 11, and 13. Additionally, because claim 2 depends on claim 1, claim 2 is not anticipated at least for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 5 to 7, 12, 14, and 15 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art ("AAPR") in view of injection Moulding Design. Claim 8 has been rejected as being unpatentable over the AAPR in view of Injection Moulding Design as applied to claims 5 to 7, 12, 14, and 15, and further in view of Japan 2-28134. Claim 3 has been rejected as being unpatentable over the AAPR in view of Japan 2-28134. Claim 9 has been rejected as being unpatentable over the AAPR in view of Injection Moulding Design as applied to claims 5 to 7,

12, 14, and 15, and further in view of German 3932248. Claim 4 has been rejected as being unpatentable over the AAPR in view of German 3932248. However, Applicant submits that the a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have found the claimed invention obvious from the cited prior art references, individually or in any combination, for the following reasons.

Applicant submits that the AAPR, Injection Moulding Design, Japan 2-28134, or German 3932248 in any combination or individually does not disclose, teach, or suggest (1) a burr projecting out from the communicating hole into the through-hole, as claimed in claims 1, 5, 11, 12, 14, and 15 as amended or (2) an inner wall of the communicating hole in a shape of a flat surface that projects into the through-hole as claimed in claims 10 and 13. Therefore, claims 5, 12, 14, and 15 would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. Furthermore, because claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and claims 6 to 9 from claim 5, these dependent claims would not have been obvious at least for the same reasons as their base claims.

In summary, all of the claims 1 to 15 are believed to be allowable for the reasons stated above.

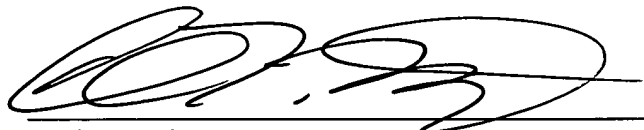
Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

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Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Enclosed is a check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee (one-month). Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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